



Brighten Bulletin

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REFRIGERATOR REMINDERS

Dear parents,

This winter has certainly thrown us all a few curve balls. As you know, we missed quite a bit of school due to the winter weather. As it stands now, the students will not be required to make up the days missed. We will also keep our half days in place as scheduled. We are working on modifying our curriculum and pacing to accommodate the missed instruction.

The winter weather also delayed the start to our new facility. During the deep freeze we had a water sprinkler pipe bust, and it caused substantial flooding to the building. This set back, along with our weather, has caused a delay in when the new construction will be available for occupancy. We were expecting this may be the case, so we have been working on our back-up plan.

We are working on many of the logistics (and will communicate them as they are decided), but we are planning on having K-5 on our existing campus (Brookmont Parkway) and 6-8 in the existing facility on our new campus. Our current timeline has us reuniting as a K-8 school on the new campus in October or November.

We know the split campus is not optimal, but we look forward to using our 7Cs to make it work! Again, more details on drop-off/pick up procedures will be forthcoming.

I invite you all to attend our Board meetings (meet 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 pm) so you can hear the latest updates related to the new facility and plans for next year. We need your input as we work towards living our vision!

Mrs. McDonald

02/28	Half Day – 11:30 Dismissal
03/03	Road Runners Begins 3-4 Lottery Enrollment Drawing 6:00
03/05	5 th Grade Writing Assessment
03/06-07	Variety Show Performance Reviews
03/08	Volunteer Work Day 9-12
03/10	PTO Board Meeting 5 pm Gov. Board Work Session 6 pm
03/14	End of Third Quarter
03/21	Middle School Spring Dance
03/24	Governing Board Meeting 6 pm
03/27	Variety Show Dress Rehearsal 5-7
03/28	Half Day – 11:30 Dismissal Variety Show 6 pm

Road Runners

Our Road Runners program will be back in full swing starting on March 3rd. If you are available to help, or if you have any other questions or interests in the program, please contact Mrs. Gore at sgore@brightenacademy.com.

Recycling News

Brighten Academy placed 5th in the state in the Recycle Bowl competition out of 65 participating schools. Congratulations to Chan Weeks and our recycling team and our staff and students on your amazing recycling efforts!

Our recycling team would also like to announce that, rather than hosting a recycle day, Brighten will receive credit for all recyclable materials turned into NWGA Recycling during their regular hours. Just let them know that you wish for the donation to go to Brighten, and they'll take care of the rest!

Thank you for your continued support of our school!

NWGA Recycling

678-715-1114

8729 South Flat Rock Road Douglasville, GA
30134

nwgarecycling.com

Do You Like Us?

Like us on Facebook and earn 1 volunteer credit! Like our Brighten PTO page and earn 1 volunteer credit hour more!

It's an easy way to earn volunteer credit and make sure that you're informed about all of the awesome happenings at Brighten!

Box Tops for Education

Many thanks to our Box Tops coordinator, Lynn Dominey! So far this year Brighten has submitted \$660.50 in Box Tops. We can still submit until March, so if you have any at home please send them in!



Art Club Schedule

If you're interested in planning ahead for the next 3 months, here is a breakdown of the days we'll meet and what is due:

5th – 8th graders will meet on the following dates:

March: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th (\$25)

April: 3rd, 17th, 24th (\$20)

May: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd (\$25)

2nd - 4th graders will meet on the following dates:

March: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th (\$25)

April: 4th, 18th, 25th (\$20)

May: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd (\$25)

Brighten Alumni News

Our Brighten alumni keep on shining in our community!

Congratulations to Maddie Gibbs, a Brighten Academy graduate, who is the STAR Student for Douglas County High School and was recently named the 2014 STAR Student for the Douglas County School System!

Congratulations also to Thomas Reidenbach. Thomas finished Best In Show at the County Science Fair. He gets to present his project at the regional science fair at UWG on February 7.



We're glad to see our Brighten alumni are still smiling! Thanks for joining us at Spirit Night, guys. We're always happy to see you!

Congratulations Future IB Students!



We are so proud to announce that 81% of the students who applied to the Douglas County IB program were accepted. Congratulations to the following students:

Ali Al-Husseini
Kent Appiah
Elizabeth Ayers
Devon Boatright
Chandler Cadman
Emma Dean
Othello German-Bey
Wisdom Henry
Andrew Hood
Eric Jackson
Jullian Lawson
Joviane Leandre
Ryan Murphy
Marissa Rankin
Miles Rucker
Cary Thomas
Victoria VanEffen

Volunteer Hours

One of the reasons why our school is so successful is because of our amazing parent involvement. You really do make the difference! We'd like to recognize our families who have already completed or exceeded their 20 volunteer hours for the year. Thank you for your support of our school!

The Abrom Family	The Maddox Family
The Al-Husseini Family	The Mahan Family
The Ali Family	The Markel Family
The Ardis Family	The May Family
The Ayers Family	The McGuire Family
The Babalola Family	The Mercer Family
The Beasley Family	The Miller Family
The Belisle Family	The Minor Family
The Bemus Family	The Mitchell Family
The Bischoff Family	The Montgomery Family
The Bricker Family	The Murray Family
The Bridges Family	The Nokes Family
The Buhl Family	The Nurse Family
The Cadman Family	The Owens-Foster Family
The Caisey Family	The Oyedepo Family
The Cameron Family	The Padierna Family
The Colvin Family	The Perry Family
The Craton Family	The Polane Family
The Cross Family	The Powers Family
The Curtis Family	The Powers Family
The Davis Family	The Rice Family
The Dean Family	The Roberts Family
The Delgado Family	The Russo Family
The Eaton Family	The Scherling Family
The Eison Family	The Scoggins Family
The Elliott Family	The Skelton Family
The Elliott Family	The Snow Family
The Exum Family	The Sorg Family
The Feltmate Family	The Stone Family
The Fortner Family	The Switzer Family
The Garren Family	The Taylor Family
The Glaser Family	The Thomas Family
The Glenn Family	The Threlkeld Family
The Glover Family	The Tritt Family
The Hultquist Family	The Tuohy Family
The Jefferson Family	The Tyson Family
The Kalos Family	The Wallace Family
The Kiger Family	The Weeks Family
The Kite Family	The Whritenour Family
The Lawson Family	The Whyte Family
The Lester Family	The Williams Family
The Lynch Family	

Volunteer Work Day

March 8th is our Volunteer Work Day sponsored by Middle School. Come support our Middle School staff and help make our school a better place!

LGPE Band 2014

Our Advanced Band will be participating in the District 12 LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation) on Thursday, March 13th at 4:00. The event will be held at McEachern High School in Cobb County. LGPE is similar to a solo ensemble event which evaluates students individually, but LGPE evaluates the band as a whole. Thank you, Mr. White, for organizing Brighten's participation in this event and for looking for feedback opportunities to help our band program and our band students grow.

Paving the Way to a Brighter Future

As you know, we will be opening our new campus next school year. In order to memorialize this special occasion, and raise some needed money for the "finishing touches," we are selling Brighten Bricks. We'd love to have the community celebrate this special time with us, so please forward this information to friends, family, and local businesses. Current and former students, families and friends, staff members and sponsors – all community stakeholders are invited to participate in this project by purchasing individualized brick pavers.

Bricks are available in four different sizes: 4"x8", 8"x8", 12"x12", and 20"x20". With the purchase of either a 4"x8" or 8"x8" brick, you may choose to order a second brick at a 40% discount. The second brick can be engraved with the same text, as a keepsake, can be engraved with a new message. A mini-, replica-brick is also available when order either the 4"x8" or 8"x8" brick. Businesses are encouraged to purchase a 20"x20" brick, onto which we can engrave the business name and/or logo.

Brighten parents can earn 10 volunteer credit hours for corporate brick sales (20"x20" size only). Please encourage a business you know to support Brighten!

For more information, please contact Roy Garren at rgarren@brightenacademy.com.

The Brighten Academy Governing Board Presents



MAY 10, 2014

6:00 to 10:00 PM

A Place to Share
1120 Hwy 78 West, Villa Rica, GA

Welcome to

A Place to Share



Low Country Seafood Boil & Cash Bar



Live Band Featuring: Mike Brookshire

Catch this legend just home from the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. Inducted into the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame and awarded Male Vocalist of the Year and Song Writer of the Year by the Atlanta Society of Entertainers, Mike and his band deliver an amazing performance.



Silent and Live Auction

Many items like Six Flags and Disney tickets, spa packages, Calphalon cookware, vacation home rentals, ESPN & NHRA Race Package including meet & greet with top drivers.

Tickets and Information

Individual Ticket \$50
Table of 10 \$425

<http://www.brightenacademy.com/brighten-gala.html>

For more information, please contact:

Jaime Holvey.
www.brightenacademy.com
(404) 578-4073

If you would like more information on silent auction donations or event sponsorship, please contact:

Jennifer Moore
ginmoore80@yahoo.com
(770) 855-3160

New Building Admission Procedures

You spoke, and we have listened! Several families indicated on the Parent Survey that, while the buzzer system is great idea, we haven't done enough to monitor who is entering the building. We agree that this is an area of improvement, and from now on we will be more diligent with screening our school visitors. All visitors who "buzz" for admittance will now be asked to identify themselves and tell the purpose of their visit to the school. Please be patient and understand that even if we know you, we will have to ask for identification. Thank you for helping us to identify an area we can improve, and for helping us to keep our children safe.

Essential 55

Brighten Academy uses Ron Clark's Essential 55 Rules as a part of our 7 C's curriculum to help develop the whole child. Please review the rules that we have covered and help us to reinforce the skills the students are learning at school.

Our Essential 55 Rule for this week is:

You should quickly learn the names of other teachers in the school and greet them by saying things like, "Good morning, Mrs. McDonald" or "Good afternoon, Mrs. Arnold. That is a very pretty dress." If you are in line with the rest of the class, the no-talking rule is in effect. However, you should speak to other teachers when entering or leaving the school, at recess, on an errand, or changing classes.

Other Essential 55 Rules we have focused on are:

When someone is speaking, you should keep your eyes on the person at all times. If someone else makes a comment, you should turn and face that person.

Throughout the year, you may receive rewards for good behavior, academic performance, and other acts worthy of praise. You should never ask for or demand a reward. It is rude for anyone to ask if they are getting a reward for good behavior. Proper classroom behavior requires students to behave well in school and at home, and do their best because they are trying to better themselves, not because they are anticipating a reward.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

As we celebrate our Charter School of the Year Award, we know that our success is possible because of all of the many people who support us every day. We want to thank the following people and organizations for showing us what Brighten community really means. Thank you!

Thank You, Douglasville Police Department!

Thank you to Captain Ardis and the Douglasville Police Department for helping us get all of our students and staff home safely during the snow storm.

Thank You, Sorg Family!

Thank you to the Sorg family for all of their hard work in producing our Charter School of the Year video! They filmed in the heat, in the rain, in freezing temperatures and even in a flooded building to make sure that Brighten was able to shine! Thank you for your dedication to our school.

Thank you, Coke!

Thank you to Tammy Shoemaker and Coke for their generous donation of coke products to help our students and staff celebrate our Charter School of the Year award! Students will celebrate our win with a coke and a smile...and some classes will even be videoed to be part of a commercial!

Thank You PTO and Brighten Families!

Thank you to our PTO and all of our Brighten families for making Teacher Appreciation Week so special!

Thank You DC Sheriff's Office, Douglasville Police Department, and the Roadrunners Program!

Thank you to our law enforcement offices and the Roadrunners program for providing all local county and private schools with Lock Down and Defend kits and training. We are so grateful that they are going above and beyond to keep our kids safe!

Thank You, First Baptist Church!

Thank you to First Baptist Church of Douglasville for providing us with lunch and cookies to celebrate our Groundbreaking! We are so excited to have such wonderful neighbors at our new facility!